



EAGC MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Name of Organization:	Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)
Mailing Address:	P. O. Box 218-00606, Sarit Centre, Nairobi
Physical Location:	Maple Court, Westlands Close, Westlands, Nairobi
Phone:	+254 (20) 3745840
Fax:	+ 254 (20) 3745841
Email:	grains@eagc.org or gmasila@eagc.org
Organization's Contact Person:	Mr. Gerald Masila, Executive Director
PF Tracking Number:	EAG-STA-012-029
Title of Activity:	Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Regional Structured Grain Trading System through Integrated Regional Market Information Systems, Policy and Reduced Barriers to Trade.
Reporting period	January 2013
Date Report submitted	February 6, 2013

1. Introduction

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of January 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-COMPETE funding support. The Grant which was signed on 20th November 2012 is aimed at building the capacity of grain stakeholders to participate in structured grain trade in the region while working towards attaining the following specific objectives:

- i). Facilitate institutional strengthening to enable EAGC to deliver services to its stakeholders across the region
- ii). Build the capacities of grain warehouse keepers and graders to improving the efficiency of grain handling and marketing operations.
- iii). Support the implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards at national levels
- iv). Build sustainability of RATIN by engaging with other MIS service providers
- v). Maintain the development of the regional Food Balance Sheet

2. EAGC Institutional Strengthening

a) Launch of EAGC South Sudan

The EAGC South Sudan Chapter was launched on Wednesday 30th January 2013, at the Grand Regency Hotel in Juba. The EAGC Chapter in South Sudan was launched through the initiative of EAGC secretariat, Private Sector and GIZ South Sudan with the support from the Government of S.Sudan through the Ministry of Agriculture, and Forestry and it's expected to address challenges relating to availability and access to grain as well as structured trading of grain commodities in the country.



EAGC Executive Director presents the certificate of EAGC S.Sudan to H.E Vice President Dr.Riek Machar Teny Dhorgon

The Launch was graced by His Excellency, The Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan, Dr. Riek, Machar Teny Dhorgon. The event was also powerfully graced by the presence of four Cabinet Ministers including The Minister for Agriculture Dr. Betty Achan Ogwaro, Minister for Cooperatives, Minister for Agriculture, Central Equatorial among other distinguished dignitaries. The Vice-President urged all the stakeholders to be serious in developing the plans to achieve the Council's objectives, adding that the formation of the Grain Council was necessary if the nation was to come close to achieving food sufficiency by 2014 as advised by President Salva Kiir.

Following the successful launch of EAGC S. Sudan Chapter, EAGC held a meeting with various Ministers at the Cabinet where the Executive Director made a presentation on EAGC and its role in the region. It was evidence that EAGC South Sudan will receive the full backing by the Government.

b) Membership Recruitment

Through the funding from USAID-COMPETE, the EAGC offices in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya were operational. EAGC intensified its membership recruitment drive. EAGC recruited 2 new members in the month of January 2013 namely:

- (i) Kilombero Plantations Ltd – Tanzania
- (ii) Otech Group – Kenya

c) EAGC Hosts the West Africa Grain Network

EAGC hosted a study tour of representatives from the West Africa Grain Network (WAGN). The purpose of the study tour was learn and interact more with the EAGC in order to better understand its organizational, functional and strategic characteristics and implementation in Eastern Africa, and therefore enhance the creation process of the West Africa Grain Network. The team comprised of representatives from Premium Foods-Ghana, Inter-professional Committee-Burkina Faso, Federation of Agricultural Producers-Benin, Association of Local Cereal Processors-Senegal and USAID/ATP, Rice value chain leader.

During the study tour, the team visited the Mwhiko Farmer Group in Nakuru, one of the beneficiaries of WRS in Kenya, Lesiolo Grain Handlers, Sygenta Foundation and Veg-Pro-a subsidiary of Export Trading Group (ETG).

The team will be instrumental in guiding the formation of the West Africa Grain Network, a similar group to EAGC but on the West Africa Region.



WAGN team visits Mwhiko Farmers in Nakuru



WAGN team tours Lesiolo Grain Handlers Ltd

3. Structured Trading Systems

Conduct two trainings for warehouse operators and graders in Uganda and Tanzania.

- *Dates & Venues:* The two training workshops are slated for 12th-15th February in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and 19th-22nd February 2013 in Jinja, Uganda. In Tanzania, the theory sessions will take place at Landmark hotel while practical session will be carried out at Bakhresa Storage Facility. Nile Hotel Ltd and Agroways Ltd were identified as the best place to do theory and practical sessions in Uganda.
- *Course Content & Registrations:* Preparations warehouse operations course content and the registration forms started late last year in December 2012 and they were finalized and circulated in January 2013. EAGC offices in Tanzania and Uganda have been registering interested trainees. By end January 2013, EAGC had received a total of 31 applicants in Tanzania and 25 applicants in Uganda. The applicants included traders operating stores, operators working for milling companies, warehouse technical staff, grain aggregators and agribusiness advisors who are expected to go back and offer acquired training to other store operators in their respective areas.
- *Trainers & Training Materials:* Local trainers were identified and approached. In Uganda, 4 local trainers were identified. However, in Tanzania, EAGC and COMPETE team found out that there was lack of skilled trainers and opted for getting an external trainer from Kenya. All trained were expected to sign a service contract before delivery of the training.
The selected trainers were tasked to prepare training materials for their particular topics. EAGC and COMPETE also embarked on the development of the simplified storage guide book targeting the small store operators. The guide book will be tested during the training workshops and feedback from trainees will be incorporated in the final guide book.

4. Strengthening of Generation, Dissemination and Coordination of Market Intelligence

d) Warehouses Real Time Volume Tracking System

On the RTVT project, a total of 30 letters and enrolment forms were sent out to the warehouse operators and so far 24 of the Warehouses have responded registering their commitment to participate in the RTVT project. These include; The Garnets Ltd, Smart Logistics Solutions Ltd, Lesiolo Grain Handlers Ltd, Mama Millers – Thika, Mama Millers - Moi's Bridge, Exports Trading Group, Exports Trading Group, Exports Trading Group, Exports Trading Group, Nafaka, Nduguti Hills, Technoserve, Kibaigwa Auction Mart Ltd, Gendi Rural, RUDI, Image Quality Service Control, Amberica, Elshady General trading, Agroways Ltd, Export Trading Company Ltd, Kapchorwa Commercial Farmers, Aponye (U) Ltd and Nyakatonzi Cooperative Union. Some of the warehouses are still in the process of confirming.

The development of the RTVT mobile application and web portal is complete and ready to be made online. The process currently ongoing is seeking appointment with the operators to

carry out the training of the contact persons who will be transmitting the data. The visits to various warehouses are set to begin from January 18, 2013.

e) Regional Food Balance Sheet,

In order to strengthening the FBS process across the region and improve the data submission into the system with focus being on getting contributors to improve the regularity of data uploading. Towards this, EAGC hosted a meeting in Kigali on January 16, 2013. The meeting brought together representatives from the private and public sectors. Below are some of the recommendations that came out of the meeting;

1. Improve stakeholder inclusiveness given the importance of the FBS process in giving the big picture in terms of available food reserves hence helping in the planning process from the policy perspective.
2. Need for more regular meetings for validation of data.
3. Involvement by more key public institutions which include MINAGRI, MINICOM, Central Bank, National Institute of Statistics, MINEAC, Ministry in charge of disaster management, Bureau of standards, the Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) and Rwanda Cooperatives Agency (RCA) is necessary.
4. The Private Sector should be mobilized through the Chamber of Agriculture (PSF), Millers Associations, Farmers' organizations and those with warehousing and storage facilities.

In Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi and Uganda, efforts towards training of data contributors and uploading of data are currently underway and these will be followed by FBS national data verification meetings in the month of February and early March 2013. An EAC regional meeting is planned for late March 2013.

In Burundi, Mr. Yves Batungwanayo poised to become the EAGC Representative was trained by the COMPETE team in Burundi and he is currently carrying out the Regional Food Balance sheet activities at country level. It is expected that more training would follow especially by the EAGC to equip him fully with the necessary skills and information that would help execute the tasks

f) Country Staff Support on MIS

The Market Information and Communication Manager was able to offer capacity support to the EAGC Representative in Rwanda during a mission supported under ASARECA during the ASARECA trends analysis review meeting held from 21st -25th January 2013. During the mission, the MIS&C Manager combined the mission to offer technical support for the Rwanda Staff. The Specific support was to help on the preparation and presentation on RATIN and RATIN SMS to stakeholders in Rwanda held at the Ministry of Agriculture. In that meeting, Marie Claire was then able to make the presentation in Kinyarwanda.

g) Recruitment and Training of the Monitors

During the month of the January, MIS&C Manager together with the Rwanda Country Representative recruited and trained two market Monitors to cover the three markets in Kigali. This is expected to increase the EAGC capacity on data collection, transmission to RATIN, market intelligence as well Market Analysis capability. The only pending recruitment process is on in Mombasa where the exercise is expected to take place in February.

Apart from the recruitment and the training of the new monitors, the routine monitoring process continued with the monitoring process with all the monitors have resume duties and contract reviews and renewals completed.

h) RATIN SMS facilities

The RATIN SMS facility was operationalized in Uganda after a successful pilot in Kenya in 2012. Currently the RATIN SMS is fully functional in both Kenya and Uganda with Rwanda and Tanzania expected to be operational in February. With the two countries now able to access the agricultural market information on the mobile phones, it is expected that more people especially the small scale traders will be able to make informed decisions when it comes to where to buy and sell the agricultural produce.

..... END.....